

Enfuvirtide

en-FYOO-vir-tide

Brand Name: Fuzeon

Drug Class: Entry and Fusion Inhibitors

Enfuvirtide, also known as Fuzeon or T-20, is a type of medicine called a fusion inhibitor. Fusion inhibitors work by blocking the HIV virus from entering human cells.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Enfuvirtide was approved by the FDA on March 13, 2003, for use with other anti-HIV drugs in the treatment of HIV infection. It is the first fusion inhibitor approved by the FDA. Enfuvirtide is approved for use in HIV infected adults and children 6 years of age or older whose HIV infection has not been controlled by other anti-HIV drugs.

Enfuvirtide does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Form/Administration

Enfuvirtide comes in powder form that is mixed with sterile water and given as a shot (injected) under the skin. Enfuvirtide should be injected in the skin of the abdomen, upper arm, or the front of the thigh. Patients should alternate enfuvirtide injections between these three places.

Recommended Daily Dose

The recommended dose of enfuvirtide is 90 mg (1 ml) twice a day. For children age 6 to 16 years, the recommended dose is 2 mg/kg twice a day (maximum dose 90 mg twice a day).

Some patients may benefit from different doses of enfuvirtide. Patients should always take enfuvirtide as prescribed by their doctors.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, enfuvirtide can cause some unwanted effects. The most common side effect is reaction in the skin where the shot was given that may cause bruising, cysts, itching, nodules, pain, and redness. Ninety-eight percent of

patients will experience skin reactions.

Serious side effects of this medicine include severe allergic reactions with chills, fever, nausea and vomiting, kidney problems, low blood pressure, paralysis, severe rash, and trouble breathing. Severe infections at places where the shots were given have been reported. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

In clinical trials, patients taking enfuvirtide were more likely to have bacterial pneumonia than patients taking a placebo. It is not known if enfuvirtide increases the risk of pneumonia, but patients taking enfuvirtide should report any symptoms of or concerns about pneumonia to their doctor.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include bad taste in the mouth; constipation; cough; depression; diarrhea; eye infection; flu-like illness; fatigue; herpes simplex infection; itchy rash; loss of appetite; muscle pain and weakness; pain and tingling in the hands and feet; nausea; nervousness; sinus problems; skin warts; stomach pain; swollen glands; trouble sleeping; and weight loss. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Enfuvirtide, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Enfuvirtide AND HIV Infections.

Enfuvirtide



Manufacturer Information

Enfuvirtide

Roche Laboratories
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110
(973) 235-5000

Fuzeon

Roche Laboratories
340 Kingsland Street
Nutley, NJ 07110
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Enfuvirtide

Trimeris Inc
4727 Univ Dr
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 419-6050

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health
Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday,
12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help
Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET